

NEWS OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT MEN

How Signelman Aird Carried His Despatches

A thin layer of snow covered the ice-bound roads when an A.A. Division ordered that urgent messages must get through from Chester to Birmingham.

Conditions were too bad for a car to be sent. So the messages were handed to Signelman John Aird, an A.A. despatch rider.

He had to go slow because in addition to the danger of a skid he ran into thick mists.

Aird had covered a good part of the journey when he had to stop in the country. His clutch had burned out.

He pushed the motor cycle a mile to a lonely inn, collected some corks, re-lined the clutch with them and then carried on.

He reached Birmingham the same day, before dark, with the messages intact.

Aird, aged 33, lives in Gentwood Road, Huyton, Liverpool and has just been awarded a certificate of Good Service.

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They'll Swim Where the Stars Once Swam

In their spare time, men of the R.A.S.C. attached to an A.A. Division in the Midlands have repaired a huge water wheel, and as a result are looking forward to open-air bathing in the pool in their camp.

They will be swimming where famous theatrical stars used to enjoy week-end parties.

Now, where new West End shows used to be worked out, new songs born, new starlets found, soldiers and members of the A.T.S. are being taught to drive.

This is one of the finest self-contained "war station" camps in the country. It has its own theatre, dance floor and cinema; its own blacksmith and coppersmith shops; and, pride of the camp, a large-scale model of a town where, with miniature "buses, cars, Belisha beacons, lorries, policemen and "white-lines", every possible road accident can be demonstrated to students.

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